

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A system for detecting cracks in optical discs, said disc having an outer edge and an inner edge, said ~~device~~ system comprising :
- a disc drive for spinning said optical disc at a plurality of speeds;
- at least one transmitter for propagating a light signal through said optical disc,
- at least one receiver for receiving said ~~propagated~~ light signal emerging from said disc;
- and
- a microcontroller coupled to said receiver for analysing the signals ~~received~~ thereof light signals.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 2-1 wherein said receiver is adapted to receive unreflected propagated signals emerging from said disc.
4. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 2-1 wherein said receiver is adapted to receive propagated signals reflected by at least one crack in said disc.
- 5-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended) An optical disc drive comprising a traverse mechanism for spinning said disc and retrieving information from said disc, a loader mechanism for loading said disc onto said traverse mechanism, and a crack detection mechanism, said crack detection mechanism comprising:

a transmitter, mounted on said disc drive, for propagating a light signal through the interior of said spinning optical disc; and

a receiver mounted on said disc drive and having a light sensor positioned to receive ~~unreflected propagated light~~ signals emerging from said disc; and

a microcontroller, coupled to said receiver, for analysing received light signals received thereof.

9. (Currently amended) An optical disc drive according to claim 8 ~~wherein comprising a traverse mechanism for spinning said disc and retrieving information from said disc, a loader mechanism for loading said disc onto said traverse mechanism, and a crack detection mechanism and a microcontroller for controller the operations of said drive, said crack detection mechanism comprising:~~

~~a transmitter for propagating a light signal through the interior of said spinning optical disc; and~~

~~a said receiver comprising a receiving mechanism mounted on said disc drive at a position that is adapted to receive reflected propagated light emerging from said disc, said reflected propagated light generated by a crack positioned along the path of said propagated light.~~

10. (Currently amended) A method for detecting cracks in optical discs comprising :

rotating said optical disc;

propagating an optical signal through the interior of said rotating optical disc, wherein said optical signal is propagated along the plane of said disc;

receiving said propagated signal; and

analysing the pattern of the received signal to determine if a crack is present in said

optical disc.

11. (Currently amended) A method for detecting cracks in optical discs comprising:
- loading said optical disc into a disc drive;
 - rotating said disc drive at a low speed;
 - propagating an optical signal through said optical disc;
 - receiving said propagated signal from said optical disc;
 - analysing said received signal to determine if a crack is present on said optical disc;
- and
- sending the appropriate command to said disc drive;
- wherein when a crack is present, said command comprises:
- sending information to the user to indicate that a crack has been detected; and
 - requesting said user to select between a first and a second option, said first option comprising maintaining said optical disc rotating at a slow speed, and
 - retrieving information from said optical disc, said second option comprising stopping said rotation.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein said optical signal is further propagated along a path that is approximately tangential to the inner edge of said disc.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein said crack radiates from the inner edge

of said disc; said optical signal is further propagated along a path that is approximately tangential to the inner edge of said disc, the closest distance between said path and said inner edge being the length of the shortest crack to be detected.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein said light signal is propagated along a path that traverses the plane of said optical disc, said path traversing said disc at a position proximate said inner edge.

17. (New) An optical disc drive according to claim 8 wherein said receiver is adapted to receive unreflected propagated light emerging from said disc.

18. (New) A system for detecting cracks in optical discs, said disc having an outer edge and an inner edge, said system comprising :

a disc drive for spinning said optical disc;

at least one transmitter positioned below said optical disc for propagating a light signal through said optical disc,

at least one receiver for receiving said light signal emerging from said disc; and

a microcontroller coupled to said receiver for analysing received light signals.

19. (New) A system according to claim 18 wherein said receiver is adapted to receive unreflected propagated signals emerging from said disc.

20. (New) A system according to claim 18 wherein said receiver is adapted to receive propagated signals reflected by at least one crack in said disc.

21. (New) An optical disc drive comprising a traverse mechanism for spinning said disc and retrieving information from said disc, a loader mechanism for loading said disc onto said traverse mechanism, and a crack detection mechanism, said crack detection mechanism comprising:

a transmitter positioned below said optical disc for propagating a light signal through the interior of said spinning optical disc;

a receiver mounted on said disc drive and having a light sensor positioned to receive said light signal emerging from said disc; and

a microcontroller, coupled to said receiver for analysing received light signals.

22 (New) An optical disc drive according to claim 21 wherein said receiver is adapted to receive unreflected propagated signals emerging from said disc.

23. (New) An optical disc drive according to claim 21 wherein said receiver is adapted to receive propagated signals reflected by at least one crack in said disc.